

AB 1942
Los Angeles County Anti-bias Pilot Project

Sponsor: Anti-Defamation League

BACKGROUND

AB 1942 is based on the Anti-Defamation League's *Eliminate the Hate* Program that is a collaboration between the ADL, the Ventura County Probation Agency, and the Colton Youth Center to reduce hate-motivated behavior through comprehensive anti-bias education programs for minors in custody, minors on probation, probation officers, correction officers, teachers, youth providers, social workers, parents, and community leaders. The program is currently in its second year in Ventura County and several other counties have expressed interest in implementing the program.

A national conference, "Hate Crimes: The Mind of the Bigot" in Philadelphia in 1998 reported that (1) the best intervention is prevention; (2) youth need role models and mentors; (3) youth need innovative and challenging after-school programs; (4) there is a need for integrated effort between courts, law enforcement and social services; (5) youth need to be listened to; and, (6) effective intervention with youth needs to reach their families as well.

AB 1942 is also based on the Juvenile Offenders Learning Tolerance (JOLT) Program offered by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Hate Crimes Suppression Unit. J.O.L.T. intervenes early after a hate-related act. Working with the Sheriff's Department, school districts, and others, the District Attorney's Office places first time juvenile offenders of low-level hate crimes and hate incidents in a diversion program where diversity and tolerance education is required of both the juvenile offenders and their parents. The J.O.L.T. alternative to Juvenile Delinquency Court offers immediate consequences to the juvenile offender. J.O.L.T. is offered in communities throughout the Antelope Valley and Long Beach. The program is currently a pilot in that area of Los Angeles County.

AB 1942 will provide pilot funding to expand and implement programs like *Eliminate the Hate* and JOLT in Los Angeles County.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF AB 1942

AB 1942 establishes a one-year state pilot project beginning in 2003 in Los Angeles County that would provide \$150,000 grant for a collaborative effort between County law enforcement, middle-schools, and non-profit community organizations to develop and implement a comprehensive anti-bias program for minors in custody or on probation, probation officers, correction officers, teachers, youth providers, social workers, parents, and community members. The grant will be competitively bid through the Office of Criminal Justice & Planning. This bill would also require a report by 2005 from the grantee with regard to the efficacy of the pilot project in achieving reduced incident of bias crimes by youth offenders.

If you support this legislation please send letters to:

Assembly Member Judy Chu
State Capitol, Room 5126

Sacramento, CA 95814

For more information, please contact Bill Wong at william.wong@asm.ca.gov.